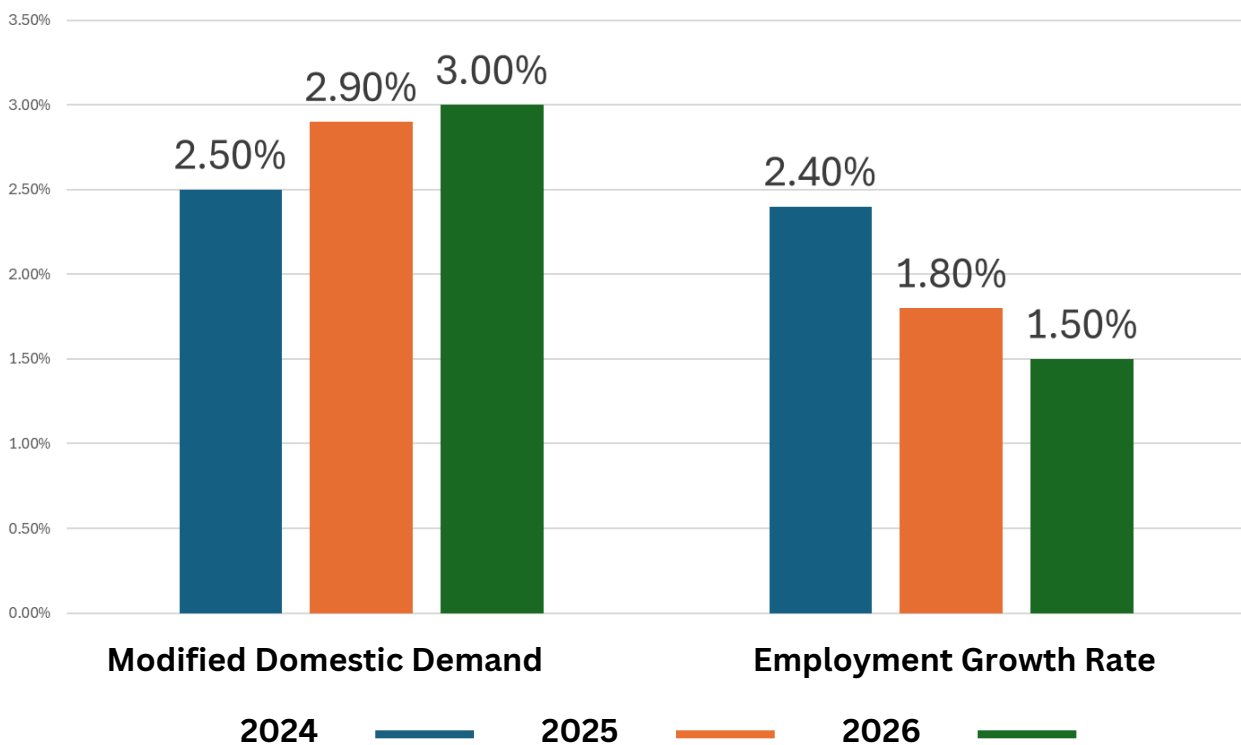


Taking Stock - Ireland's Economic Strength

Budget 2025 was announced on Tuesday, featuring over €10 billion allocated for tax, expenditure, and cost of living initiatives, alongside a record budget surplus of €8.7 billion. In conjunction, the Department of Finance released revised economic indicators for the nation's future. At the forefront is Modified Domestic Demand (MDD), the preferred metric for assessing economic growth. The Government projects that MDD will rise by 2.5% in 2024, increasing to 2.9% in 2025, and reaching 3% by 2026. Additionally, employment growth is anticipated to rise by 2.4% this year, then taper off to 1.8% in 2025 and 1.5% in 2026. By the end of 2025, an expected 110,000 more individuals will be employed.

Economic Projections - Budget 2025



With a record budget surplus and a favourable economic outlook, now is an opportune moment to analyse how Ireland stacks up against other similarly sized countries globally in terms of population. For our comparison on the next page, we have selected Norway, Denmark, Finland, Slovakia, Croatia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina from Europe, as well as New Zealand from Oceania, and Costa Rica and Panama from the Americas. We have evaluated these nations based on several key economic indicators, including GDP per capita, balance of trade, employment rate, and government debt to GDP ratio.

- GDP per capita reflects a country's economic output per person, with higher figures indicating greater economic prosperity.
- Balance of trade measures the monetary difference between a nation's exports and imports.
- The government debt to GDP ratio compares a country's total government debt to its gross domestic product.

A lower debt to GDP ratio suggests that a country is more likely to meet its debt obligations without excessive strain. However, an extremely low ratio, typically below 20%, may signal an economy that is stagnant, as both debt and GDP are low. Conversely, a high ratio, such as above 80%, could indicate a greater risk of defaulting on debts.

Country	Population	GDP Per Capita	Balance of Trade	Employ. Rate	Government Debt to GDP
Ireland	5.34mn	103684.9	€6.997bn	74%	44%
Norway	5.49mn	87961.8	€5.650bn	70%	44%
Denmark	5.93mn	67967.4	€4.380bn	70%	29%
Finland	5.60mn	53755.9	€90mn	72%	76%
Slovakia	5.43mn	48527.9	€206mn	72%	56%
Croatia	3.85mn	21459.8	€-1.50bn	69%	64%
Bosnia & Herz.	3.43mn	8426.1	€-632mn	43%	17%
New Zealand	5.31mn	48527.9	€-1.25bn	68%	39%
Costa Rica	4.46mn	18661.8	€-942mn	N/A	64%
Panama	5.26mn	16595.4	€276mn	51%	78%